

# MENS SOUNDS WARNING AGAINST OVER-DRILLING OF FIELD WHILE PRICE OF CRUDE OIL IS SO LOW

By R. W. EDENS  
President of Fortuna Oil Company.)

I have been asked by various news-representatives to make a statement as to what I thought in the future outlook of the Torrance oil field.

Torrance oil field is going to be one of the biggest fields in the state of California, to my judgment. It is practically proven two sides of the field by drilling the Midway No. 1, Fortuna No. 1, and Parker-Peterson No. 1, but the land owners are making mistakes in this field in allowing the drilling to continue under present conditions and in the face of the number of leases taken in the field on one and two-acre tracts calling for immediate action.

I think that it is the policy of the land owners and the operating companies to co-operate in the fullest manner. If there is not a plan of this kind worked out we are going to have something to happen that we will endeavor to avert when we have our operations to try and keep an overproduction. The small operators stuck together and they will prove to the larger companies that they wanted to co-operate with them to the fullest extent possible. We allowed ourselves to be pinched on our production, while the larger companies were busy constructing a large amount of storage, and now that they have the storage, they are going to fill this storage with cheap oil.

**Urges Co-operation**  
If the land owners and the operators will co-operate with one another, these storage tanks and storage reservoirs may not be filled as fast as they have been predicted to be filled. The small operators have warned on the toes of the larger companies and they have said "Boys, you will have to get off" and they are going to force us to the wall if we do not co-operate with one another. The small operator is doing just exactly what the large companies want them to do—to fill their reservoirs and storage tanks with cheap oil—and we are breaking our necks to do it.

In the first place, I am not in favor of operating on town lots because it cannot prove to be a successful line of operation. We are draining the oil fields of Southern California today to the extent that in a very short time from now we are going to find ourselves in the condition of an oil famine, which will be brought about by our own foolhardiness in not co-operating with one another in trying to avoid drilling too

many wells on the amount of acreage obtainable to drill upon.

**All Are to Blame**  
I know that the writer is to blame to some extent for the fast operation now being started in the Torrance field, but I guess that I am like all other operators—overly anxious to get production. This is working a detriment to me and my company and all other small operators as well. We cannot blame the larger companies for doing just exactly what they are doing, for we are to blame ourselves in bringing about the situation that we now confront. Unless we co-operate more fully—as I have stated a number of times heretofore—and curtail the developments in the Torrance field, we are certainly going to regret it in more ways than one.

My attention was called to an article today that appeared in one of last night's Los Angeles papers, where a very prominent oil man had set out the fact that the small operator in a short time would not be able to operate. He sure hit the nail on the head.

**Drilling Too Close**  
I have a six-acre lease located in Torrance, with the Fortuna No. 1 now on production. On my north side there are being built four rigs on four one-acre tracts and two rigs on two one-half-acre tracts; on my west side, two wells on two one-acre tracts; on my south, three wells—two wells on one acre and one well on one acre. There are two acres adjoining me on the east side that I understand are going to be drilled, two wells to two acres, and I have to keep men posted with shotguns to keep the operators from dumping lumber on my own property.

Then we "holer" because we get a cut in oil and an overproduction and the large companies stand back and laugh and say "Watch the suckers go," and they buy 65-cent oil. Some business, I say. What is worrying me is where our fuel, gasoline and lubricating oil is going to come from five years from now. Orange county and Los Angeles county will have to find more oil fields to keep up with the demand, and in checking this situation very closely from an oil man's standpoint and a geological survey of the different localities in our vicinity—if we find more than two more oil fields in these two counties—I am going to drill a well square on the top of "Old Baldy" and see if we can get some oil there.

Now, dear readers, you can take this for what it is worth, or as you please. You have asked me for an opinion and I am giving it to you straight from the shoulder, so help me God.

—When such a little thing will please her—



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## TORRANCE Newslets

Mrs. Ed Thompson of Long Beach is a guest at the E. A. Thompson home on Andree avenue during Lieut. Thompson's stay with the fleet at San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Rees motored to San Francisco, where they will attend the American Legion doings.

Mrs. A. C. Clark of Riverdale is a guest of her sister, Mrs. Joseph R. Perry, of Kern court.

L. J. Acree returned Sunday from an eastern trip that included stops in 36 states. Mr. Acree is still "true to his old home"—sunny California.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Young and their guest, Miss Ellen Young, were entertained Saturday by Mrs. O. S. Britton and Mrs. Joe Stone of Athens-on-the-Hill.

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## TORRANCE PERSONS AND PASTIMES

Comings, Goings and Doings of Folks Hereabouts

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lapping were entertained at dinner Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wolfe of Santa Monica.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Clark left Tuesday for a two weeks' motor and camping trip through the northern part of the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cable and daughter, of Los Angeles, were weekend guests at the John A. Bowers home in Vista Highlands.

James G. Taylor of Centralia, Ill., is a guest at the home of his cousins, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Thompson, of Andree avenue.

Robert Deinger and James H. Scott left Sunday morning for Frisco and the A. E. F. conclave.

Miss Ellen Young of Los Angeles was a week-end guest at the home of her brother, Forrest J. Young, of Cota avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kelly were dinner guests Sunday of Mrs. J. B. Ferguson of Redondo Beach. Other guests included M. M. Kelly of Quinault, Wash.; Mrs. Anna Kelly and Mrs. Bola Hughes of San Diego.

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Parr were guests of Los Angeles friends Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wayt and Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Grant attended the ball game in Redondo Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watkins were Sunday dinner guests of Rev. and Mrs. H. W. McCarty of Pasadena.

Gordon and Howard Shearer of Los Angeles were luncheon guests Sunday of Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Zeller.

Mrs. L. M. Acree of Gramercy avenue is visiting Mrs. C. J. Dexter of Los Angeles.

John F. Nelson of Park Terrace is at the Anaheim sanitarium for a few weeks.

Mrs. F. Nieschang of West Sixty-second street, Los Angeles, and her guest, Mrs. C. A. Roane, of Washington, D. C., were in Torrance Saturday. Mrs. Nieschang is a Keystone property owner.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Richhart of Gramercy avenue enjoyed a drive over the Palos Verdes estates Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Briney were entertained Sunday by Mrs. Aaron Johannessen of Fullerton.

Rev. and Mrs. George Straight of Redondo were dinner guests of Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Zeller Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Tompkins spent Sunday evening with Los Angeles friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ray and daughter Dorothy, of the Burkhardt court, spent Sunday with their aunt, Mrs. Hanna Emmons, of Lyawood.

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